

# EXHIBIT A

**N.V. Bekaert S.A.**

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**REGISTERED**

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

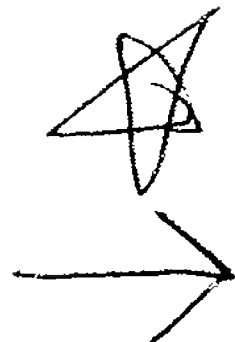
Receiving Office

Postbus 5818

Patentlaan 2

NL- 2280 HV RIJSWIJK

NEDERLAND

Zwevegem, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2003.**Re: International Patent Application No. PCT/EP03/50662****N.V. BEKAERT S.A.****Our ref.: 6060/WS/cvb**

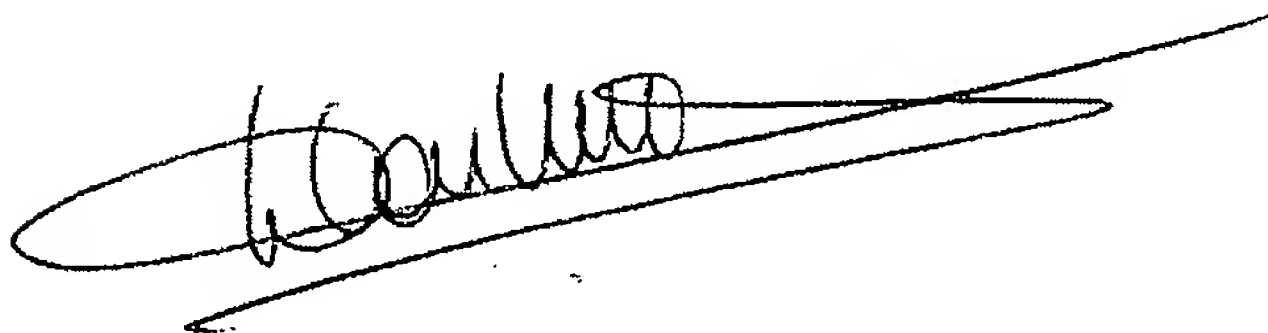
Dear Sirs,

In reply to your letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2003 (Invitation to correct defects in the International Application – PCT Articles 3(4)(i) and 14(1) and Rule 26), please find herewith :

- the duly signed Power of Attorney
- and the Declaration of Inventorship, signed by the Inventors Mr. Martin Jenkins and Mr. Willy Marrecau.

Sincerely yours,

N.V. BEKAERT S.A.



Ir. W. VAN STEENLANDT, GA 495  
Industrial Property Department

# PCT

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

(for an international application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 90.4)

The undersigned applicant(s) (Names should be indicated as they appear in the request):

N.V. BEKAERT S.A., Bekaertstraat 2, B- 8550 ZWEVEGEM, Belgium

JENKINS Martin, 830 Aronson Lake Court, ROSWELL, GA 30075, U.S.A.

MARRECAU Willy, 37 Huntington Road, ROME, GA 30165, U.S.A.

hereby appoints (appoint) the following person as:



agent



common representative

### Name and address

(Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)

VAN STEENLANDT Wim, MESSELY Marc, DEMEESTER Gabriël, HEYDE Katrien, SEYNHAEVE Geert.  
N.V. BEKAERT S.A.

D.I.E.

Bekaertstraat 2

B - 8550 ZWEVEGEM

Belgium

to represent the undersigned before



all the competent International Authorities



the International Searching Authority only



the International Preliminary Examining Authority only

in connection with the international application identified below:

Title of the invention: CATALYTIC CONVERTER

Applicant's or agent's file reference:

6060/WS

International application number (if already available):

PCT/EP03/50662

filed with the following Office

E.P.O. THE HAGUE

and to make or receive payments on behalf of the undersigned.

as receiving Office

Signature of the applicant(s) (where there are several applicants, each of them must sign; next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs, if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request or this power):

MESSELY Marc, Proxy Holder N.V. BEKAERT S.A.

JENKINS Martin, Applicant for the U.S.A.

MARRECAU Willy, Applicant for the U.S.A.

Date:

ZWEVEGEM,

## PCT REQUEST

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Original (for SUBMISSION) - printed on Friday, 26 September, 2003 03:43:00 PM

6060-WS

V:II-4-1	<p>Declaration: Inventorship (only for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America)</p> <p>Declaration of inventorship (Rules 4.17(iv) and 51bis.1(a)(iv)) for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America:</p>	<p>I hereby declare that I believe I am the original, first and sole (if only one inventor is listed below) or joint (if more than one inventor is listed below) inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.</p> <p>This declaration is directed to the international application of which it forms a part (if filing declaration with application).</p> <p>I hereby declare that my residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated next to my name.</p> <p>I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified international application, including the claims of said application. I have identified in the request of said application, in compliance with PCT Rule 4.10, any claim to foreign priority, and I have identified below, under the heading "Prior Applications," by application number, country or Member of the World Trade Organization, day, month and year of filing, any application for a patent or inventor's certificate filed in a country other than the United States of America, including any PCT international application designating at least one country other than the United States of America, having a filing date before that of the application on which foreign priority is claimed.</p>
VIII-4-1 -1	Prior applications:	


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MG  
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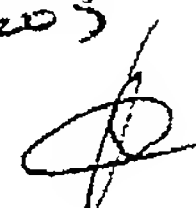
## PCT REQUEST

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6060-WS

		<p>I hereby acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is known by me to be material to patentability as defined by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.</p> <p>I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.</p>
VIII-4-1 -1-1	Name:	JENKINS, Martin
VIII-4-1 -1-2	Residence: (city and either US State, if applicable, or country)	ROSWELL, Georgia
VIII-4-1 -1-3	Mailing address:	830 Aronson Lake Court ROSWELL, GA 30075 United States of America US
VIII-4-1 -1-4	Citizenship:	
VIII-4-1 -1-5	Inventor's Signature: (if not contained in the request, or if declaration is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application. The signature must be that of the inventor, not that of the agent)	
VIII-4-1 -1-6	Date: (of signature which is not contained in the request, or of the declaration that is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application)	Oct 14, 2003

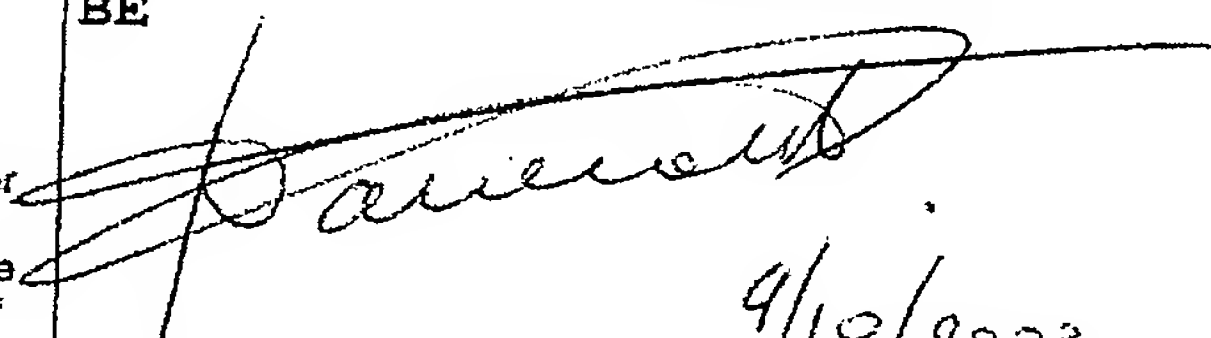
Nov. 15, 2003  
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## PCT REQUEST

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6060-WS

VIII-4-1 -2-1	Name:	MARRECAU, Willy
VIII-4-1 -2-2	Residence: (city and either US State, if applicable, or country)	ROME, Georgia
VIII-4-1 -2-3	Mailing address:	37 Huntington Road ROME, GA 30165 United States of America
VIII-4-1 -2-4	Citizenship:	BE
VIII-4-1 -2-5	Inventor's Signature: (if not contained in the request, or if declaration is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application. The signature must be that of the inventor, not that of the agent)	 9/10/2003
VIII-4-1 -2-6	Date: (of signature which is not contained in the request, or of the declaration that is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application)	

NOV. 15, 2003 9/10/2003  
